

cycler, I see what my next volunteer project can be.

Let's keep our community in the lead as a recycling champion. Put litter in its place. Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!

*Kriket Hollingsworth  
Eugene*

**RECLAIM FOR NATURE**

Wild animals don't go where they're not invited. Barred owls are moving into the forests west of the Cascade crest because humans have created for them an inviting environment that looks just like their home in the Rockies: dry, hot, open canopy forests with light undergrowth. Logging and road building have destroyed most of the lush, moist, cool, closed canopy forests with 500-foot trees hanging with lichen that were the home of the spotted owl. The amphibians are gone, the small forest floor mammals are gone, the mushrooms are gone, the familiar songbirds are disappearing and also the spotted owls are dying off. Why does this surprise anyone? What part of responsible don't they understand?

If those clever scientists want to eradicate the species that is responsible for the decline of the spotted owls, the songbirds, the amphibians, the small mammals, the lichen and the mushrooms, they have only to look in the mirror. If they aren't willing to use the same strategy on the humans that they are using on the barred owls, at least they could choose the next best thing: mass sterilization of human beings. Oh yeah, and confiscate surplus property: Reclaim for nature everything owned by rich people. It's the only way to save our planet.

*Ann Tattersall  
Eugene*

**INFECTED BRAINS**

On Monday (8/15) the U.S. Department of Agriculture acknowledged more than a thousand violations of mad cow disease regulations by U.S. meat plants since January 2004.

Mad cow disease, also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), is a degeneration of brain tissue leading to erratic behavior and death. It is transmitted through feeding of infected brain and spinal tissues to other cows. Human consumption of infected

beef leads to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), a deadly dementia frequently confused with Alzheimer's disease that affects millions.

Federal safety measures, including the 1997 ban on feeding potentially infected cow body parts to other cows, have lacked adequate enforcement. Through its reluctance to institute an adequate testing program for diseased cattle, the USDA has failed to assess the true magnitude of the threat.

The latest disclosure further undermines consumer confidence in the safety of our nation's meat supply. It provides one more reason to replace beef in our diet with a veggie burger or one of the other meat alternatives in the frozen food section of our neighborhood supermarket.

*Edward Newland  
Eugene*

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

I want to compliment the author (Melissa Bears) on the article on Brian Michaels. It was a delight to meet her and have the opportunity to include my experience and admiration.

So often within the stories of our everyday heroes there is an intrigue of support behind the scenes. Then there are some stories that have just a few or just one person who accomplishes so much with such ease. Too often those who are the buffers when the "rubber meets the road" are overlooked as they create the magic that weaves the foundation for success.

One of those extraordinary individuals is Brian Michael's assistant Sephra, who has been behind the scenes as well as on the front line. It is because of her passion and years of devotion that Brian and she combine their energy together to complement and complete this successful duo. I am not the only one that appreciates what Sephra accomplishes each day as she and Brian provide their clients with a voice. Brian has often said, "She (Sephra) is my right arm, and without her this (his practice) wouldn't be possible."

To Sephra and all the folks that help keep the wind in the capes of our heroes, a heart full of gratitude to you.

*Dayna Miller  
Eugene*

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